

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10861 161206Z

44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
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O R 161130Z AUG 74 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7884
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10861

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, WPC, SPOP, VS, PFOR, RO
SUBJ: PRG ATTENDANCE AT WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

REF: BUCHAREST 3588

1. IT APPEARS FROM HERE THAT PRESENTATION OF VICE CHAIRMAN BODNARAS REPORTED REFTEL MAY HAVE BEEN PARTLY BLUFF. IT IS DIFFICULT TO TAKE SERIOUSLY IDEA THAT HANOI'S REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IS SERIOUS NEW DEVELOPMENT, SINCE THAT HAS BEEN DRV POSITION AT VARIOUS RECENT CONFERENCES AND WAS TO BE EXPECTED. PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS THIS ISSUE WITH COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA AND ROMANIA HAVE REVEALED A SOMEWHAT HALF-HEARTED APPROACH TO MATTER ON THEIR PART, AND EVEN REMARKS OF BODNARAS IN REFTEL INCLUDED POSITIVE ASPECTS SUCH AS STATEMENT MACOVESCU AS CONFERENCE PRESIDENT COULD NOT INVITE "PRG" ON HIS OWN, REMARK THAT ROMANIA WILL NOT BE FIRST TO RAISE ISSUE AND EMPHASIS ON ROMANIA'S DESIRE FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE.

2. CONSEQUENTLY WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A VERY FIRM ATTITUDE INDEED, IN EXPECTATION THAT IN THE END COMMUNIST COUNTRIES AND OTHER "PRG" SUPPORTERS WILL BACK OFF AND LET THE CONFERENCE PROCEED. WE SEE NO CHOICE BUT TO TELL ROMANIANS AND PERHAPS MORE ESPECIALLY SOVIETS THAT OUR POSITION IS ABSOLUTELY FIRM ON THIS MATTER AND THAT WE WILL WAGE ANOTHER ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 10861 161206Z

AS AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS YEAR IF NECESSARY.

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Message Attributes

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